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Newsletter

Number 25

12 December 2014



Website www.matarau.school.nz

Phone / Fax (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

Thanks

.. To those who helped to make our 2014 prize giving such a special occasion. You truly did honour our award recipients and sent the message that their diligence was worthy of acknowledgement.

.. To those who have supported the school in any way whatsoever over the course of 2014.

.. To staff and parents who assisted with supervision at last week's disco, and to Campbell Clarke who generously gave his time to provide the music and lighting.

People of the week

.. award recipients!

.. their support teams!

.. our international students who add depth and character to our school. Best wishes as you prepare to head home. We hope you will take many happy memories with you.

.. Kyle Hanlon for receiving "Player of the Day" for his City Cricket Team. Well done Kyle!

Congratulations

.. Natasha Hewson who recently broke our Year 8 Girl High Jump record ... 1.33 metres Formerly 1.27 metres. Well done Natasha!

Term dates 2015

Term 1	2 February to 2 April
Term 2	20 April to 3 July
Term 3	20 July to 25 September
Term 4	12 October to ... <i>to be advised</i>

Early Finish

Please note that school finishes at mid-day on the final day of school Tuesday 16 December. All buses will run approximately 3 hours early ... please allow some variation on drop off / pick up time due to unpredictable loadings. Parents who pick their children up from school are asked to do so at mid-day please.

Lost Property

Please drop by to check the lost property bin sometime before the final day of school. Items unclaimed by term's end will be donated to charities.

School Security

Please assist by keeping a close eye on the school over the holidays. If you notice anything suspicious please phone United Security (4301992) or Steve Martin (4335061) and take registration numbers of suspicious vehicles. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Staffing for 2015

The Board is pleased to announce 2015 staffing as follows ..

Teaching staff			Support staff
Room 1	Mrs Walker	Year 0 (likely start mid-year)	Teacher Aides
Room 2	Mrs Marvin	Year 1	Mrs Neumann
Room 3	Mrs Burgin	Year 1	Mrs Crawford
Room 4	Miss Bevin	Year 2	Mrs Wynyard
Room 5	Mrs Gunson	Year 2	Mrs Pol
Room 6	Mrs Milicich	Year 3	Mrs Hannam
Room 7	Miss Blundell	Year 3	Information Technology
Room 8	Miss Gentil	Year 4	Mrs Sullivan
Room 9	Mr Schuster	Year 5 and 6	Administration
Room 10	Miss Griffin	Year 5 and 6	Mrs Dorahy
Room 11	Mrs Donaldson	Year 7 and 8	Mrs Cates (ESOL)
Room 12	Mrs Abbott / Mr Delemare	Year 7 and 8	Mrs Sinclair
Class/student support Mrs Walker (start of year)			Caretaker / Grounds
Special Needs Mrs Comrie (ESOL)			Mr Palmer
Reading Recovery / Junior diagnostics Mrs Robertson			
Dep. Principal - Mr Delemare / Assis. Principal Mrs Robertson			

Yr 7 & 8 Interschool Athletics Results

Congratulations to the following children who achieved placings at the Interschool Athletics Competition:

Year 7 Boys	100m	Tyronne Fred	3 rd
	High Jump	Heinrick Fourie	2 nd =
	Shot Put	Tyronne Fred	1 st
Year 7 Girls	Relay		3 rd
Year 8 Girls	800m	Natasha Hewson	1 st
	Long Jump	Natasha Hewson	2 nd =
		Michelle Crawford	2 nd =
	Relay		3 rd

Missing fence palings

Recently (weekend or evenings) fence palings and other bits of assorted timber were removed from in front of the school. These are the property of the school, and we are keen for any information on the whereabouts of these materials. If you know where these might be, or if you saw anyone removing these, please contact the school next week.

Junior readers

If you have readers at home please get these to school on Monday as we will be doing a stocktake. Please check under beds, in the bottom of schoolbags etc. It is important that all books are returned so we have complete sets.

Year 3 Portfolios

Very soon Portfolio's for Year 3's will be sent home. These are not required to be returned as new ones will be issued at the beginning of Year 4 and will remain with them until Year 8.

2015 School Stationery

As for 2014, stationery will need to be ordered online via the OfficeMax website - www.myschool.co.nz



Search for Matarau School and then your child's class. You will find complete class stationery lists with unit prices. Again as for 2014, the school has passed on its reward points to families (who purchase online), gaining you a further 10% cost advantage (possibly still the only school in NZ that does this). Orders can be placed across the holidays for delivery before school starts. A brochure will be sent home shortly explaining the process. If you do not have internet access please contact Helen for a printed list. Your child's purchase instructions and room number are being sent home along with this Newsletter.

Matarau Whanau Picnic – Saturday 13th December

Any families wishing to celebrate the end of the school year are welcome to join us at Whangamu Bay/Wellingtons Bay. It is also a great opportunity for new families to get to know one another. For further details of this event join Matarau Whanau Facebook Page.

Hopscotch For Kids- after school care - is seeking expressions of interest from Matarau School for Term 1 2015. They will meet and transport kids from Matarau School and back to their Kensington base. Afternoon tea and support with homework is provided. Children are accompanied to and from their chosen activity or (run activities from their Kensington base) until you are able to collect them before 5.45pm. For further information phone Wendy on 021733186 or Abbey on 0212372598 or email hello@hopscotchforkids.co.nz.

School contribution / ipads etc ... Year 4 to 8 students only

Thank you for the positive response to the board's proposal re ipads in 2015. The Board is trying to keep costs as low as possible and give you options. We realise that there are divergent views out there on the role of digital technology in learning, and we want to be respectful of this fact. Our digital technology survey indicated that 50% of families who responded were keen to purchase ipads for their children, smaller proportions indicated they were happy for the children to use the school ones on the condition that we increase availability, a smaller proportion again expressed quite understandable reservations about digital technologies in education. Circumstances differ and philosophies differ. The call is entirely yours. You should feel under no pressure in any direction. Our goal is simply to grow our competency in using digital technologies to enhance learning, and to ensure that children can access these technologies when they are needed. In 2012 I advised of our determination that, whatever we did with digital technologies, they would complement, and not replace, the other things that contribute (and have always contributed) to effective learning and teaching. Over the past two years (and this year in particular) we have stayed true to that goal. In 2015 we will share some of this with you. We will also share the survey results and what we will be doing in response to your feedback.

We have had some excellent questions regarding our ipad proposal and thought it might be useful to share these

1. **Are we expected to buy an ipad?** Absolutely not. Up to you!
2. **Will there be advantages to our child having their own ipad?** Yes, we think so. They will have more access and can use these at home. They can also use them for some of their homework.
3. **Will my child be disadvantaged if they do not have one?** Not too much. Depends on the child. They will still have access to shared technologies at school.
4. **If my child has their own ipad can they use the school ipads .. and equivalents?** Yes, when they need to.
5. **If I do not buy them an ipad will there be enough school ones to go around?** We will do our best, but these will inevitably be shared. There will be a much better ratio of school devices in 2015 than in 2014.
6. **Will the school load relevant software onto purchased ipads so that this software can be used at home?** Depends on the software / licensing etc. We are looking into this.
7. **If I can get an ipad cheaper than the Noel Leeming offer is this a problem?** No, go for it.
8. **Minis or full size ... which is best?** Both do exactly the same thing but one is easier to see. Perhaps dependent on age of child, eye tracking, does your child wear glasses etc
9. **My child is in year 7 or 8 and so should I buy an ipad?** Up to you. They will use these (they are fun devices) but will also use other devices as we prepare them for secondary school.
10. **Can I buy a device for my year 7 and 8 child, which they will be able to take through to secondary school?** The problem here is that the secondary schools use different platforms and it is not easy to operate a year 7 and 8 class with multiple platforms.
11. **Can I buy my year 7 and 8 child an ipad and pass it to a younger sibling when they head off for secondary school?** Great idea.
12. **Will digital technologies replace the conventional teaching and learning methods that we value and know make a difference?** No. Where possible we will use them in ways that complement and enhance the

traditional ways of learning and teaching. Please park this until next year and we will share specific examples with you.

13. **Can maths whizz be run on an ipad?** Being worked on at the moment. We will keep you posted.

14. **Will digital technologies make children less mobile and active?** Good question. We need to make sure there is a balance and that children get plenty of opportunities to run and play and interact.

15. **Will there be measures to ensure my child's ipad is looked after while at school?** We will need to put protocols in place but will do our best. Your child has a part to play here also.

16. **Are digital technologies and wifi systems safe?** After many months of researching this topic I am convinced that there is unlikely to ever be an answer that satisfies everyone. The Ministry of Health has issued a public statement in the safety of school wifi systems. Their website is worth a visit and it has a number of interesting links. An excerpt from this website is below.

Safety of WiFi signals

WiFi signals won't harm your health.

Measurements in New Zealand and overseas show that exposures are tiny fractions of the public exposure limit. This limit is set out in the radiofrequency field exposure standard. The highest exposures found in two New Zealand schools were 4000 times below the limit, and generally exposures were more than 10,000 times below the limit. Exposures are low for three main reasons.

The transmitter (or router) is low power.

- 1. The signal strength quickly gets weaker as you move away from the router.*
- 2. A signal is only transmitted when data is being transferred (except for brief 'beacon signals').*

School Contribution ... was meant to be in last week's newsletter ... principal a bit disorganised!

The school contribution is a **voluntary contribution** which plays an important part in redressing the huge funding differentials in favour of lower decile schools. This contribution enables us to provide similar resources to those available in lower decile schools and thus ensure that our children are not disadvantaged.

The board is grateful to the more than 90% of our families who make this contribution every year.

Special Thanks to

Our sponsors for their generous Contributions to our School

Staff for efforts, beyond the call of duty

The Board for its unswerving dedication to duty

Children for striving to attain your goals (and for supporting others towards the same end)

To the many parents etc. who have given their time to help in classrooms, camp, sports days, transport

To those who have given us the benefit of the doubt when things didn't quite turn out right.

We have plenty of exciting things planned for next year including a focus on personalised learning, digital technologies, a special focus on spelling, grammar and writing, new learning and behaviour support initiatives, and, hopefully, some classroom refurbishments.

We look forward to sharing these with you in the New Year.

And finally

Prize giving reminded me that real success seldom happens by accident. It is usually the result of diligent effort. Full credit to every child who received an award at prize giving, and to all of those children who worked hard to grow their learning, achieve their goals, overcome their fears and enrich the lives of others. But just as important, behind every successful child is a back stage team of parents and teachers who get stuck in and do their best, in a job that is often more an art than a science. You can take credit too.

Have a safe and enjoyable Christmas. Best wishes to those who end their association with us this year - we hope you will reflect positively on your period of involvement with our school.

Regards
Kevin Trewhella
PRINCIPAL

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children, please support them

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School Fundraising Opportunity



COOKBOOKS AVAILABLE AT OFFICE - ONLY \$20 EACH

The Matarau Cookbooks have arrived! Grab your copy(s) from the School Office NOW before they run out! There are over 60 much-loved recipes (heaps of desserts) that you can try out over the holidays...grab your copy now :-)

Upcoming Event

Having a clean out!! Save it all for our Gala next year!! Early next year we are looking at hosting a Matarau School Gala. Your support would be greatly appreciated for this massive school fundraising event. We will be looking at having stalls for cakes, books, baby/toddler gear, food, plants, candy, white elephant, adult clothes, arts and crafts and lots more. We would like to have a big kid's entertaining area with dunking booth, pony rides, water slide, bobbing apples and lots more. If you are having a household clean out over the holidays please consider us for your pre-loved stuff. If you have any ideas, contacts or time to help then I'd love to hear from you, just email me on dylan.lisajones@hotmail.com



Community Notices

For Sale – Eggs, \$5.00 per dozen or \$3 per ½ dozen. Ph or text Helen 02102328094

For Sale – 2 WBHS Jumpers, \$30 ea. Ph or text Helen 02102328094

House to Rent - 3 bedrooms, Pipiwai Road close to Knight Road, available from 19 December. \$320 per week. Phone Robyn 021541349 or 4335501

Babysitting Wanted - We are a new Matarau School Family and are seeking a reliable babysitter who could help us out occasionally looking after our 3 school age boys. Please phone Katrina 0272552251 / 433-5044 if you are interested.

Wanted - Paddock Rocks - We are looking for paddock rocks for our gardens. We live in Matarau, but have one of the only properties without rocks! If anyone would like rocks removed from paddocks, give contact Renee Montgomery

0272595233 hughrenee@hotmail.com



Free, 5 day School holidays learn-to-surf program, Sandy Bay Tutukaka Coast, 5th to 9th, 12th to 16th & 19th to 23rd January 2015. Age 11 to 17yrs.

What you will learn: Surf safety / rips and currents / surf equipment; Paddling and board control; Catching waves / standing & wave riding technique. **Book now: Phone 4344135 or email surf@tutukakasurf.co.nz**

Free Holiday Programme - Register now for the opportunity of your child/ren to attend a FREE HOLIDAY PROGRAMME these coming holidays. Proudly sponsored by the Ministry of Social Development. One Week holiday programme - Monday to Friday - 9.00am to 1.00pm. 5 Different Weeks to choose from - Week 1 Dec 15th - 19th, Week 2 Jan 5th - 9th, Week 3 Jan 12th - 16th; Week 4 Jan 19th - 23th; Week 5 Jan 27th - 30th. Run from the Whangarei Intermediate School Hall. Children Aged 8 to 14 years old. Sports, Bootcamp, Arts and Crafts, Hip Hop Dancing, Whangarei Aquatic Centre.

Costs: Everything FREE. To register call 09-4596909 and leave your details on the answer phone; name, phone number and week you wish your child/ren to attend. Or email info@hardcoredance.co.nz **We will get back to you to confirm your registration.** Register now...limited spaces.

Hurupaki Educare - Pre Christmas 2014 and January Holiday Programme 2015 - open pre Christmas from Thursday 18th to Wednesday 24th December 2014 and again on Monday 5th January 2015 for 4 weeks. 8.00am to 5.30pm, based in the Hurupaki School Hall. Activities include trips to ten pin bowling, movies x 2, trips to Reotahi and Whale Bay, along with other action packed days. OSCAR accredited, families can apply for WINZ assistance – conditions apply. Discounts available for two or more children from the one family. To view and download forms go to www.schoolholidayprogrammes.co.nz or contact Christin on 0274-821331 or info@schoolholidayprogrammes.co.nz for more information.

All Stars-Kids in Action OSCAR school holiday programme - December 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th; January Monday 12th -Friday 16th; January Monday 19th -Friday 23rd; January Tuesday 27th -Friday 30th, Raumanga (The Pulse) 8.00am-5.30pm, \$35.00per day, 5-14 years. For further information visit our website: www.kidsinaction.co.nz or contact Paul on 021951925. Spaces are limited.

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